### AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 22, 2002 AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 1, 2002 AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 18, 2002

SENATE BILL

No. 1700

#### **Introduced by Senator Peace**

February 21, 2002

An act to add Division 8.6 (commencing with Section 22970) to the Business and Professions Code, *and to amend Section 30473.5 of the Revenue and Taxation Code*, relating to tobacco.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1700, as amended, Peace. Tobacco products.

Existing law vests the State Department of Health Services with primary responsibility for enforcement of tobacco control laws prohibiting the sale of tobacco products to minors, and requires the department to conduct random onsite inspections at retail sites. Existing law, the Cigarette and Tobacco Products Tax Law, requires distributors and wholesales of cigarette and tobacco products to be licensed by the State Board of Equalization. The Cigarette and Tobacco Tax Law also requires a tax imposed by the law with respect to distributions of cigarettes to be paid by distributors through the use of stamps or meter impressions. Possession, selling, or buying false or fraudulent stamps or meter impressions with a tax value greater than \$750 is a crime.

This bill would provide for the licensure by the State Board of Equalization of manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers, and retailers of cigarette and tobacco products that are engaged in business in California. The bill would prohibit retailers, manufacturers, distributors, and wholesalers from distributing or selling those cigarette

SB 1700 — 2 —

and tobacco products unless they are licensed. The bill would require manufacturers of cigarette and tobacco products that provide those products to distributors or wholesalers to pay the board a fee for each pack of cigarettes sold. The bill would require all moneys collected pursuant to its provisions to be deposited in the Cigarette and Tobacco Products Control Fund, which would be created in the State Treasury, and all funds therein would be available for appropriation by the Legislature for specified purposes. The bill would authorize the board to assess administrative fines and to suspend or revoke the license of any retailer of tobacco products that is in violation of the retailer provisions and bill or the laws prohibiting the sale of cigarette and tobacco products to minors.

The bill would prohibit a manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, or retailer from selling counterfeit cigarette and tobacco products and would provide that a 2nd violation of that prohibition is a felony crime. The bill would impose specified fines or imprisonment for possessing, selling, or buying false or fraudulent cigarette tax stamps. The bill, until January 1, 2007, would preempt any local ordinance that requires a retailer to obtain a license to sell cigarette and tobacco products, but would authorize allow stricter local ordinances thereafter.

Because a 2nd violation of this bill's prohibition against selling counterfeit eigarette and tobacco products the bill would be a felony crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program—by creating a new crime.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Division 8.6 (commencing with Section 22970)
- 2 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

\_\_ 3 \_\_ SB 1700

### DIVISION 8.6. TOBACCO CONTROL

#### CHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 22970. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:
- (a) Youth consumption of cigarette and tobacco products is a serious public health problem.
- (b) Eliminating youth access to and consumption of cigarette and tobacco products is a significant statewide public health goal.
- (c) Uniform statewide licensure to reduce youth access to and consumption of cigarette and tobacco products is necessary to guarantee the protection of children.
- (d) Uniform statewide licensure of retail cigarette and tobacco sales enhances a retailer's ability to eliminate cigarette and tobacco sales to minors by reducing overlap and confusion and reduces costs of compliance.

<del>(c)</del>

- (e) The licensure provisions of this chapter are intended to supplement and enhance existing provisions of law and penalties for illegal sales of tobacco products but are not intended to supplant those provisions or penalties.
- 22971. For purposes of this division, the following terms shall have the following meanings:
  - (a) "Board" means the State Board of Equalization.
- (b) "Department" means the State Department of Health Services.
- (c) "Distributor" means a distributor as defined in Section 30011 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.
- (d) "Manufacturer" means a manufacturer of cigarette and tobacco products.
- (e) "Retailer" means a retailer of cigarette and tobacco products.
- (f) "Wholesaler" means a wholesaler as defined in Section 30016 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.
- (g) "Cigarette" means any roll for smoking, made wholly or in part of tobacco, irrespective of size or shape and irrespective of whether the tobacco is flavored, adulterated or mixed with any other ingredient, where the roll has a wrapper or cover made of paper or any other material, except where the wrapper is wholly

SB 1700 — 4 —

or in the greater part made of tobacco and the roll weighs over three pounds per thousand.

- (h) "License" means a license authorized to be issued by the board pursuant to this division.
- (i) "Licensee" means any person holding a license issued by the board pursuant to this division.
- (j) "Sale" includes any transfer of title or possession for a consideration, exchange or barter, in any manner or by any means.
- (k) "Tobacco products" includes, but is not limited to, all forms of cigars, smoking tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff, and any other articles of products made of, or containing at least 50 percent tobacco, but does not include cigarettes.
- (1) "Unstamped package of cigarettes" means a package of cigarettes that does not bear a tax stamp pursuant to Part 13 (commencing with Section 30001) of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, or that bears a tax stamp of another state or taxing jurisdiction.
- (m) "Unlawfully stamped package of cigarettes" means a package of cigarettes bearing a counterfeit California state tax stamp.
- (n) "Untaxed tobacco products" means any tobacco product upon which the tobacco products surtax has not been paid pursuant to Part 13 (commencing with Section 30001) of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.
- (o) "Person" includes any individual, firm, partnership, joint venture, limited liability company, association, social club, fraternal organization, corporation, estate, trust, business trust, receiver, trustee, syndicate, this state, any county, city and county, municipality, district, or other political subdivision of the state, or any other group or combination acting as a unit.

## CHAPTER 2. RETAILERS, WHOLESALERS, AND DISTRIBUTORS OF CIGARETTE AND TOBACCO PRODUCTS

22975. (a) Commencing January 1, 2004, a retailer that sells cigarette and tobacco products in this state shall obtain from the board a valid retailer's license to sell cigarette and tobacco products and shall maintain that license on the premises for which the license was issued. A retailer that owns or controls more than one retail location where cigarette and tobacco products are sold

\_\_ 5 \_\_ SB 1700

to the public shall obtain a separate license for each retail location, but may submit a single application for those licenses.

- (b) The license obtained pursuant to subdivision (a) shall be conspicuously displayed at the place of business for which it was issued. A licensee that has no regular place of business shall conspicuously display a certificate prescribed by the board on each of its carts, stands, trucks, or other merchandising devices through which it sells cigarettes or tobacco products in this state.
- (c) Every person that owns or, if the owner is not the operator, the person that operates one or more vending machines through which cigarettes or tobacco products are sold in this state, regardless of whether located on the premises of the vending machine owner or, if the owner is not the operator, the premises of the operator or the premises of any person, shall register each vending machine with the board. On or after January 1, 2004, a vending machine registration certificate, in the form as may be prescribed by the board, shall be affixed to each machine through which cigarettes or tobacco products are sold in this state.
- 22976. The application for a retailer license to sell cigarette and tobacco products shall be on a form provided prescribed by the board and shall include the following information:
  - (a) The name, address, and telephone number of the applicant.
- (b) The business name, address, and telephone number of each retail location where cigarette and tobacco products will be sold to the public.
  - (c) Any other information the board may require.
- 22977. (a) A retailer is qualified for a license and the board shall issue the license to the retailer when the board receives a completed application, unless the retailer has previously been issued a license for that location and is currently serving a suspension of the previously issued license. A copy of the license shall be available at the location for which the license was issued.
- (b) A retailer applying for a license after completing a suspension pursuant to this division shall not be issued a license until any unpaid taxes required pursuant to Part 13 (commencing with Section 30001) of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code and fees required pursuant to this division are paid.
- (c) The board may revoke the registration of a person or refuse to register an application for a license for a location that is the same premises as that of a person whose registration is revoked or

SB 1700 — 6 —

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whose revocation is pending, unless the person applying provides the board with adequate documentation demonstrating that the person acquiring the premises or business is in an arms length transaction. For purposes of this section, an "arms length transaction" means a sale in good faith and for valuable 5 consideration that reflects the fair market value in the open market 6 between two informed and willing parties where neither party is 8 under any compulsion to participate in the transaction. A sale 9 between relatives, related companies, or partners or a sale for the primary purpose of avoiding the effect of the violations on the 10 11 premises, is presumed not to be an arms length transaction. 12

- (d) Any person or licensee convicted of a felony pursuant to Section 30480 of Revenue and Taxation Code shall not be granted a license, or if a person holds a license, that license shall be revoked.
- 22977.1. A retailer shall retain <del>proof of</del> purchase <del>for</del> *invoices pursuant to Section 22978.1 for all* cigarette and tobacco products<del>, including the name, address, and license number of the distributor that supplied the products for a period of one year from the date of purchase.</del>
- 22978. The retailer's license to sell eigarette and tobacco products is not transferable to a new person or entity or to a new location. purchased. The records shall be maintained for a period of one year from the date of purchase on the premises for which the license was issued and thereafter shall be made available for a period of three years. Any licensee found to be in violation of these requirements shall be subject to penalties pursuant to Section 22991.
- 22977.2. (a) A person that engages in business of selling cigarettes or tobacco products in this state without a license or after a license has been suspended or revoked, and each officer of any corporation which so engages in business, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable as provided in Section 22991.
- (b) Each day that a retailer offers cigarette and tobacco products for sale or exchange without a valid license for the location from which they are sold shall constitute a separate violation.
- 22978. (a) A distributor or wholesaler, or a distributor functioning as a wholesaler, shall not sell cigarette and tobacco products to a retailer, wholesaler, or distributor, or a distributor

—7— SB 1700

1 functioning as a wholesaler, for distribution or sale in this state 2 unless the retailer, wholesaler, or distributor is properly licensed. 3 Any distributor or wholesaler found in violation of these 4 requirements shall be subject to penalties pursuant to Section 5 22991.

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- (b) A distributor or wholesaler shall not sell cigarette and tobacco products to any licensee whose license has been suspended or revoked.
- (c) Each separate sale to an unlicensed retailer shall constitute a separate violation.
- 22978.1. (a) Every distributor or wholesaler shall include the following information on each invoice for the sale of cigarette and tobacco products:
- (1) The name, address, and telephone number of the distributor or wholesaler.
- (2) The state license number of the distributor or wholesaler as provided by the board.
- (3) The name, address, and retailer's license number of each customer.
- (4) The amount of excise taxes paid by the distributor or wholesaler on the sale of cigarette and tobacco products.
  - (5) An itemized listing of the products sold.
- (b) Each distributor and wholesaler of cigarette and tobacco products subject to licensing under this division shall maintain for a period of four years accurate and complete records relating to the sale of cigarette and tobacco products, including, but not limited to, receipts, invoices, and other records required by the board.
- (c) Failure to comply with the provisions of this section shall be a misdemeanor subject to penalties pursuant to Section 22991.
- 22979. (a) Except as provided in Section 22981, the board shall take action against a retailer convicted of a violation of the STAKE Act (Division 8.5 (commencing with Section 22950)) or, Section 308 of the Penal Code, or this division according to the schedule set forth in subdivision (b). Violations by a retailer at one retail location shall not be accumulated against other locations of that same retailer. Violations accumulated against a prior retail owner at a licensed location shall not be accumulated against a new retail owner at the same licensed location. Prior to suspending or revoking a retailer's license to sell cigarette and tobacco products,

SB 1700 — 8 —

 the board shall notify the retailer. The notice shall include instructions for appealing the license suspension or revocation.

- (b) (1) Upon the first conviction of a violation of the STAKE Act (Division 8.5 (commencing with Section 22950)) or, Section 308 of the Penal Code, *or this division*, the retailer shall receive a warning letter from the board that delineates the circumstances under which a retailer's license may be suspended and the amount of time the license may be suspended. The retailer and its employees shall receive training on tobacco control laws from the department upon a first conviction.
- (2) Upon the second conviction of a violation of the STAKE Act (Division 8.5 (commencing with Section 22950)) or, Section 308 of the Penal Code, or this division within 12 months five years, the retailer shall be subject to a fine of not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) and a 30-day suspension of the license to sell cigarette and tobacco products.
- (3) Upon the third conviction of a violation of the STAKE Act (Division 8.5 (commencing with Section 22950)) or, Section 308 of the Penal Code, or this division within 24 months five years, the retailer shall be subject to a fine of not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) and a 90-day suspension of the license to sell cigarette and tobacco products.
- (4) Upon the fourth conviction of a violation of the STAKE Act (Division 8.5 (commencing with Section 22950)) or, Section 308 of the Penal Code, or this division within 36 months, the board shall suspend the retailer's license to sell cigarette and tobacco products for 90 days. five years, the licensee shall be subject to a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) and a one-year suspension of the license to sell cigarette and tobacco products.
- (5) Upon the fifth conviction of a violation of the STAKE Act (Division 8.5 (commencing with Section 22950) or 22950)), Section 308 of the Penal Code, *or this division* within 48 months *five years*, the board shall revoke the retailer's license to sell cigarette and tobacco products.
- (c) The decision of the board to suspend or revoke the retailer's license may be appealed to the board within 30 days after the notice of suspension or revocation. All appeals shall be submitted in writing. The final decision to suspend or revoke the retailer's license may be appealed to the board within 30 days after the action becomes final. All appeals shall be submitted in writing.

\_\_9 \_\_ SB 1700

The timely filing of an appeal to the board shall prohibit a license suspension or revocation and the payment of an administrative fine until the appeal is heard and decided. Once the appeal is heard and decided, a license suspension or revocation upheld by the board on appeal shall be effective on the date of the board's decision and an administrative fine upheld by the board shall be paid within 10 days of the board's decision. In the absence of an appeal to the board, a license suspension or revocation shall be effective and an administrative fine shall be paid 31 days after notice from the board or after the suspension or revocation action becomes final. 

22980. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this division, the sale *or possession for sale* of counterfeit eigarette and tobacco products, *or the sale or possession for sale of counterfeit cigarettes or unstamped packages of cigarettes*, by a retailer shall result in the following action seizure of the product by the board or any law enforcement agency and shall constitute a misdemeanor punishable as follows:

- (1) For the first violation, the board shall issue a warning letter to the retailer.
- (2) A second violation shall be a crime punishable as a felony and shall also result in the revocation of the retailer's license by the board.
- (1) A first violation with a total quantity of less than 10 cartons of cigarettes shall be a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or imprisonment not to exceed one year in a county jail, or both the fine and imprisonment.
- (2) A second violation within five years with a quantity of less than 10 cartons of cigarettes shall be a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) or imprisonment not to exceed one year in a county jail, or both the fine and imprisonment, and shall also result in the revocation by the board of the retailer's license.
- (3) A first violation with a total quantity of more than 10 cartons of cigarettes shall be a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed two thousand dollars (\$2,000) or imprisonment not to exceed one year in a county jail, or both the fine and imprisonment.
- (4) A second violation within five years with a quantity of 10 cartons of cigarettes or more shall be a misdemeanor punishable

SB 1700 — 10 —

by a fine not to exceed fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) or imprisonment not to exceed one year in a county jail, or both the fine and imprisonment, and shall also result in the revocation by the board of the retailer's license.

- (5) A court shall consider a defendant's ability to pay when imposing fines pursuant to this section.
- (b) The provisions of this section shall apply to the holder of the retailer license and not to an employee of the licensee. However, the retailer shall not be subject to the provisions of this section if an employee of the retailer is selling counterfeit cigarette and tobacco products without the retailer's knowledge.
- (c) For purposes of this section, counterfeit cigarette and tobacco products include cigarette and tobacco products that have false manufacturing labels or cigarette packs without tax stamps or with counterfeit tax stamps, or a combination thereof.
- 22981. The retailer's license to sell cigarette and tobacco products shall be subject to the licensee requiring each employee making retail sales of cigarette and tobacco products to successfully complete a training program developed by the department on tobacco control laws every 12 months.
- 22982. (a) The department shall develop the curriculum requirements for the training programs that train retail sales clerks regarding tobacco control laws, including prohibitions on the sale of cigarette and tobacco products to minors. The department may charge a fee to any person submitting a proposed training program that covers the department's cost of reviewing the proposed training program. All money collected by the department pursuant to this section shall be deposited in the Cigarette and Tobacco Products Control Fund.
- (b) The department shall consult with representatives of cigarette and tobacco products retailers and youth smoking prevention advocates to develop tobacco control training programs. The programs shall be developed by January 1, 2004.
- 22983. Upon suspending or revoking the license of a retailer pursuant to this chapter, the board shall notify all licensed distributors and wholesalers by fax and e-mail within 48 hours.
- 22984. (a) On and after January 1, 2004, the requirements of this division for obtaining a license to sell retail cigarette and tobacco products shall preempt any local government ordinance that requires a retailer to obtain a license to sell cigarette and

— 11 — SB 1700

tobacco products or to register with a local government to sell cigarette and tobacco products. However, on and after January 1, 2007, a local government may adopt an ordinance that is more strict than the requirements of this chapter. Funding

- (b) Funding from the Tobacco Control Fund shall not be made available to a local government for purposes of enforcing that ordinance.
- (c) A local government entity may designate a local regulatory authority to enforce the retail licensing provisions of this division.
- (d) Data collected by the board from retailers pursuant to the licensing provisions of this division shall be shared with a designated local regulatory agency if reasonably necessary for the purposes of enforcing the retail licensing provisions of this division.

# CHAPTER 3. MANUFACTURERS, DISTRIBUTORS, AND WHOLESALERS OF CIGARETTE AND TOBACCO PRODUCTS

- 22985. Commencing January 1, 2003, a manufacturer that provides cigarette and tobacco products to a distributor or wholesaler or to a distributor functioning as a wholesaler, for distribution and sale in this state shall obtain and maintain a valid tobacco manufacturer's license from the board.
- 22986. Commencing January 1, 2003, a distributor or wholesaler, or a distributor functioning as a wholesaler, that provides cigarette and tobacco products for distribution and sale in this state shall obtain and maintain a valid distributor's license or a valid wholesaler's license from the board.
- 22987. (a) A manufacturer shall not sell cigarette and tobacco products to a distributor or wholesaler, or a distributor functioning as a wholesaler, for distribution or sale in this state unless the distributor or wholesaler, or distributor functioning as a wholesaler, is licensed pursuant to this division.
- (b) A distributor or wholesaler, or distributor functioning as a wholesaler, shall not sell cigarette and tobacco products to a retailer or a wholesaler or distributor, or distributor functioning as a wholesaler, for distribution or sale in this state unless the retailer is licensed pursuant to this division.
- (c) No distributor or wholesaler may sell cigarette and tobacco products to any retailer whose license has been suspended or

SB 1700 — 12 —

1 revoked unless all existing cigarette or tobacco tax debts of the 2 retailer for the purchase of cigarette and tobacco products have 3 been cleared. The board shall determine the debt status of a 4 suspended retailer licensee 25 days prior to the reinstatement of the 5 tobacco retailer's license. A wholesaler or distributor may place a 6 lien on the retailer not later than 15 days prior to the reinstatement 7 of a suspended license.

- (d) A distributor or wholesaler is relieved from liability for cigarette and tobacco products taxes that became due and payable if the measure of the tax is represented by accounts that have been found to be worthless and charged off for income tax purposes, or if the distributor or wholesaler is not required to file income tax returns, that have been charged off in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. If the distributor or wholesaler has previously paid the tax, the distributor or wholesaler may, under regulations adopted by the board, take as a deduction the amount found worthless and charged off. If any of those accounts are thereafter in whole or in part collected by the distributor or wholesaler, the amount so collected shall be included in the first return filed after the collection, and the tax shall be paid with the return.
- 22988. (a) Each distributor or wholesaler shall include the following information on each invoice for the sale of cigarette and tobacco products:
- (1) The name, address, and telephone number of the distributor or wholesaler.
- (2) The state license number of the distributor or wholesaler as provided by the board.
- (3) The amount of excise taxes paid by the distributor or wholesaler on the sale of cigarette and tobacco products.
- (b) Each distributor and wholesaler of cigarette and tobacco products subject to licensing under this chapter shall maintain accurate and complete records relating to the sale of those products, including, but not limited to, receipts, invoices, and other records required by the board.
- (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this division, the sale of counterfeit eigarette and or possession for sale of counterfeit tobacco products, or the sale or possession for sale of counterfeit eigarettes or unstamped packages of eigarettes, by a

— 13 — SB 1700

manufacturer, distributor, or wholesaler shall result in the following:

- (1) For the first violation, the board shall issue a warning letter to the manufacturer, distributor, or wholesaler.
- (2) A second violation shall be a crime punishable as a felony and shall also result in the revocation of the manufacturer, distributor, or wholesale license. seizure of the product by the board or any law enforcement agency and shall constitute a misdemeanor punishable as follows:
- (1) A first violation with a total quantity of less than 10 cartons of cigarettes shall be a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or imprisonment not to exceed one year in a county jail, or both the fine and imprisonment.
- (2) A second violation within five years with a total quantity of less than 10 cartons of cigarettes shall be a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000), or imprisonment not to exceed one year in a county jail, or both the fine and the imprisonment, and shall also result in the revocation by the board of the manufacturer, distributor, or wholesale license.
- (3) A first violation with a total quantity of more than 10 cartons of cigarettes shall be a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed two thousand dollars (\$2,000) or imprisonment not to exceed one year in a county jail, or both the fine and imprisonment.
- (4) A second violation within five years with a quantity of 10 cartons of cigarettes or more shall be a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) or imprisonment not to exceed one year in a county jail, or both the fine and imprisonment, and shall also result in the revocation by the board of the manufacturer, distributor, or wholesale license.
- (5) A court shall consider a defendant's ability to pay when imposing fines pursuant to this section.
- (d) For the purposes of this section, counterfeit cigarette and tobacco products includes cigarette and tobacco products that have false manufacturing labels or cigarette packs without tax stamps or with counterfeit tax stamps or a combination thereof.
- 22989. (a) In addition to any other tax or fee, a manufacturer shall pay a fee of not to exceed two cents (\$0.02), as determined by the board, on or before March 1, 2003, to the board for each pack of cigarettes that was sold to a distributor or wholesaler for

SB 1700 — 14 —

distribution or sale in this state in 1998. The board shall notify each manufacturer of the amount due under this section on or before January 31, 2003.

- (b) This section shall only apply to manufacturers who signed the tobacco master settlement agreement.
- (c) This section shall become inoperative, and shall be repealed, on January 1, 2004, unless a later enacted statute that is enacted before January 1, 2004, deletes or extends the date on which it becomes inoperative and is repealed.
- 22989. (a) In addition to any other tax or fee, a manufacturer shall pay a fee not to exceed two cents (\$0.02), as determined by the board, for each pack of cigarettes that was sold to a distributor or wholesaler for distribution or sale in this state in the prior calendar year.
  - (b) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2004.

#### CHAPTER 4. MISCELLANEOUS

- 22990. All moneys collected pursuant to this division shall be deposited in the Cigarette and Tobacco Products Control Fund, which is hereby created in the State Treasury. All funds in the Cigarette and Tobacco Products Control Fund are available for expenditure, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for the following purposes:
- (a) To the board for the administration and investigation of the programs relating to the issuance and use of cigarette tax stamps, cigarette and tobacco products retailer's licenses, cigarette and tobacco products wholesaler's licenses, cigarette and tobacco products distributor's licenses, and cigarette and tobacco manufacturer's licenses. Included in those costs shall be reimbursement to licensed distributors and wholesalers for the actual cost of labor for applying indicia or impressions, bonding cost, warehouse space, and stamping equipment lease, including case cutters and packers. The board shall adjust reimbursement to the distributor or wholesaler to reflect those actual costs when renewing its contract for cigarette indicia or impressions.
- (b) To the department for costs related to controlling youth access to cigarette and tobacco products.
- (c) To the Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice for criminal investigative activities associated with criminal

— 15 — SB 1700

activity in the sale of cigarette or tobacco products or counterfeit cigarette or tobacco products.

- 22991. Upon confiscating eigarette or tobacco products, the board shall return the products to the licensed distributor that paid the tax on the products. Any violation of this division by any person, except as otherwise provided, is a misdemeanor. Each offense shall be punished by a fine not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000), or imprisonment not exceeding one year in a county jail, or both the fine and imprisonment.
- 22992. Any prosecution for a violation of any of the penal provisions of this division shall be instituted within five years after the commission of the offense or within two years after the violation is discovered, whichever is later.
- SEC. 2. Section 30473.5 of the Revenue and Taxation Code is amended to read:
- 30473.5. (a) Any person who possesses, sells, or offers to sell, or buys or offers to buy, any false or fraudulent stamps or meter impressions provided for or authorized under this part with a tax value greater than seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750) in a quantity of less than 2000 is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) or imprisonment not exceeding one year in a county jail, or by both the fine and imprisonment.
- (b) Any person who, with intent to defeat or evade or with the intent to aid another to defeat or evade the taxes imposed by this part, possesses, sells, or offers to sell, buys or offers to buy, any false or fraudulent stamps or meter impressions provided for or authorized under this part in a quantity of 2000 or greater, is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not to exceed fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) or imprisonment not exceeding one year in a county jail, or by both the fine and imprisonment.
- SEC. 3. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.